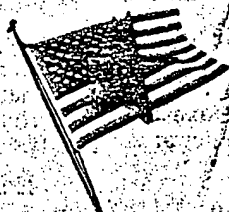


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TARGET AMERICA



The Influence of Communist Propaganda on U.S. Media

James L. Tyson
Preface by Reed Irvine

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"Target America," by James L. Tyson, Regnery Gateway Inc., 284 pages, \$12.95

Arnaud De Borchgrave and Robert Moss attracted public attention to worldwide disinformation operations of the Soviet KGB in their novel "The Spike." Now, James L. Tyson has tackled this serious problem in a non-fiction work, "Target America."

Because there is a shortage of information on Soviet covert activities in this country, this book is both timely and effective. Why? Tyson describes Soviet propaganda organization, showing links with various front groups within America. He provides names and documentation for the disinformation activities which are dramatized in "The Spike" and provides the reader with a means of discerning the way in which public opinion is being subtly manipulated.

Tyson describes a Soviet propaganda effort which is huge. According to the Soviets themselves, more than three million agitprops (agitator-propagandists) propagandize their own people within the Soviet Union. French and CIA sources estimate that they have about half a million propaganda agents around the world, with at least 4,000 within the United States.

Soviet propaganda is organized by the Soviet Communist Party, which directs a large Department of Propaganda and Information, and which is responsible for both foreign and domestic efforts. Senior Politburo member M.A. Suslov is in charge, with Boris Ponomarev as head of the International Department, which has taken over work previously done by the Comintern being responsible for operations in non-Communist countries.

Ponomarev's department is also responsible for the news services, Tass and Novosti, the foreign work of Pravda, Izvestiya and Radio Moscow, and the "voluminous" activities of the Embassy Information Departments.

Specializes in lies

The KGB's Department of Disinformation, formerly known as Disinformation Department D, but now known as Directorate A, specializes in outright lies, producing forgeries, and planting articles containing false information in friendly media, as part of its responsibility to increase the level of psychological warfare around the world.

On a useful chart, Tyson shows this organization, indicating lines of communication between the Politburo, international fronts and groups of what he terms "the Far Left Lobby" within the United States, also indicating which group is under Politburo control, and which groups have close relations or are subject to manipulation.

Within the United States, the Soviet propaganda effort is controlled by officers coming in and out of the country. For this purpose, they use Communist front groups such as the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Union of Students, the International Organization of Journalists, the Christian Peace Council, the Woman's International Democratic

"All of these groups maintain relations with contacts in the U.S. and promote continuous intercourse through international conferences, periodicals and other communications," says Tyson.

There are within the U.S. a proliferation of various study centers, citizen's committees and public affairs coalitions which maintain close relations with the international communist fronts, and have one thing in common—"they consistently back causes that knowingly or unknowingly give aid or comfort to the Communists and have never advocated policies that are contrary to the Communist line."

Critics of "The Spike" called for the names of the disinformation agents. This is a clever tactic because owing to curbs that have been placed on the FBI, and because the U.S. is outside the CIA's purview, there is a shortage of data on subversive activities within the U.S.

This book names names

However, there is evidence for disinformation agents' activities in other countries, and Tyson does name names. He cites the instance of a prominent French journalist Pierre Charles Pathe who was jailed on charges of acting as a disinformation agent for the KGB in 1980, he tells the story of the editor of the largest Malay language newspaper in Singapore being

arrested in June 1976, charged with being a communist agent. Several days after this, the editor of Malaysia's New Strait Times confessed on television that he had used his position to advance the communist cause.

Tyson provides the documentation that "Spike" critics were challenging De Borchgrave and Moss for. Sixteen pages of footnotes guide the reader to sources in conference proceedings, books, newspapers, magazines, and government reports, while 14 pages of index permit the reader to use the book as a research handbook.

He shows how propaganda and disinformation can be exposed even if direct connection with the Soviets cannot be shown, by describing and using two methods which can provide "at least strong circumstantial evidence of communist influence" on media personalities and in their articles or broadcasts.